

Table of Contents

LaGrange College.....	2
Course Catalog - Religion and Philosophy.....	2
B.A. in Religion and Philosophy - B.A. in Religion and Philosophy.....	2
Minor in Religion - Minor in Religion.....	3
PHIL 1410 - Introduction to Philosophy.....	3
PHIL 2410 - Moral Philosophy.....	3
PHIL 2440 - Elementary Logic.....	3
PHIL 3410 - Philosophy of Religion.....	4
PHIL 3420 - Themes in Political Philosophy.....	4
PHIL 2430 - Bioethics.....	4
PHIL 4410 - Selected Topics in Philosophy.....	4
RLGN 1101 - Introduction to Christianity.....	5
RLGN 1102 - Jewish Origins in Context.....	5
RLGN 1103 - New Testament Writings in Context.....	5
RLGN 1104 - Dialogue with World Faith Traditions.....	5
RLGN 1105 - Christian Ethics and Contemporary Social Issues.....	5
RLGN 1106 - American Christianity.....	6
RLGN 1108 - Earth Theology.....	6
RLGN 2107 - Religious Faith in a Scientific Age.....	6
RLGN 2120 - Introduction to Hellenistic Greek I.....	7
RLGN 2121 - Introduction to Hellenistic Greek II.....	7
RLGN 2215 - Global Christianity.....	7
RLGN 2220 - Modern Church History.....	7
RLGN 2230 - Ethnicity and Religion in America.....	7
RLGN 2320 - Conflict and Peace-making.....	8
RLGN 3120 - The Prophets.....	8
RLGN 3150 - The Apostolic Age.....	8
RLGN 3160 - The Gospels.....	9
RLGN 3200 - Early Church History.....	9
RLGN 3210 - United Methodist Studies.....	9
RLGN 3310 - Contemporary Christian Thought.....	10
RLGN 3320 - The Ethics of Sexuality, Marriage, and Gender.....	10
RLGN 3340 - Sociology of Religion.....	10
RLGN 3360 - Missions: Theology and Practice.....	10
RLGN 3510 - Christian Education in the Local Church.....	11
RLGN 3520 - Christian Worship.....	11
RLGN 3540 - Youth Ministry.....	11
RLGN 3550 - Internship.....	11
RLGN 3560 - Transformational Leadership.....	11
RLGN 4610 - Selected Topics in Religion.....	12
RLGN 4620 - Senior Thesis or Project.....	12

LaGrange College

Course Catalog - Religion and Philosophy

B.A. in Religion and Philosophy - B.A. in Religion and Philosophy

Type:Major

The Religion and Philosophy Major is a broad program that offers flexibility for students to prepare for seminary studies, church ministry, or graduate study of religion. In addition to completing the general education requirements, students pursuing a major in Religion must complete the following major program requirements:

The major consists of 11 courses in addition to the exploratory course in religion that is taken as part of the Ethos curriculum ([RLGN 1101-RLGN 1108](#)), yielding a total of 12 courses. The Religion & Philosophy major must include at least two (2) courses in each of these areas: Biblical Studies, Historical Studies, and Ethics and Theological Studies.

The major also requires at least one course in the area of Philosophy. In addition, all Religion & Philosophy majors will complete a senior thesis or project. Thus, of the 12 courses required for a religion major, at least seven (7) courses must conform to the following guidelines:

- Biblical Studies (two courses). At least one course must be at the 2000-level or above. Courses: 2110, 2111, 2120, 2121, 3110-3160.
- Historical Studies (one course). Courses: 1104 or 1106 (if not taken for the general education), 2210-2230, 3210-3220.
- Ethics and Theological Studies (two courses). Courses: 1105, 1107, or 1108 (if not taken for the general education), 2310, 3310-3360.
- Philosophy (one course). Courses: any of the philosophy courses, which are listed under Area IV in the course listing below.
- Senior Thesis or Project (one course). Course 4620 is normally taken in the fall of the senior year. The student should choose a project director from within the Religion & Philosophy faculty and work with this director to refine a topic in the semester prior to which the student enrolls for the course. Thus, most students should select a project director and general topic by the end of the spring semester of the junior year, will present a proposed topic to the faculty at the beginning of the next fall term, and will complete the work by the end of the fall term.

Students are free to choose any other religion or philosophy offering for the remaining five (5) courses. Internships may be taken for up to 3 hours of credit, with permission of the program coordinator. At least six (6) courses in the major must be numbered at the 2000-level or above.

The Religion and Philosophy Major with Honors

Students who maintain a 3.5 grade point average in Religion and Philosophy courses and who receive A- grades or better on their senior theses or projects may graduate with program honors.

Recommended Progression

Students who are interested in the B.A. in Religion and Philosophy can review a [four-year course plan](#).

Minor in Religion - Minor in Religion

Type:Minor

A minor in religion requires completion of three (3) courses in addition to the exploratory religion core requirement: four (4) courses in all. At least two (2) courses must be at the 3000-level or above.

PHIL 1410 - Introduction to Philosophy

A survey of major philosophical themes and figures that were formative in Western civilization.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

PHIL 2410 - Moral Philosophy

A study of the major philosophical understandings of morality and the good life.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

PHIL 2440 - Elementary Logic

An introduction to the logic of propositions with attention to the structure and evaluation of informal arguments. The rhetoric of persuasion and its use of logic and emotions are discussed.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

PHIL 3410 - Philosophy of Religion

An investigation of problems related to philosophical reflection on religious thought and experience. A prerequisite for this course is at least one prior course in philosophy.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

Restrictions:

- Permission of course can be granted from instructor.
-

PHIL 3420 - Themes in Political Philosophy

An introduction to the basic ideas of political philosophy. Topics considered include the social and historical context of political theory, the development of major ideas in political philosophy, critical analysis of theoretical arguments, and the relation of political theory to contemporary politics. This course is also cross-listed as POLS3340.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

PHIL 2430 - Bioethics

A study of the ethical issues raised by the practice of nursing, medicine, and biomedical research.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

PHIL 4410 - Selected Topics in Philosophy

A seminar course on a major subject of concern in philosophy based on individual research and assigned readings. A prerequisite for this course is at least one prior course in philosophy.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

Restrictions:

- Permission of course can be granted from instructor.
-

RLGN 1101 - Introduction to Christianity

An introduction to the Christian tradition of faith through a study of its central symbols, sacred texts, and practices.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

RLGN 1102 - Jewish Origins in Context

A study of the Hebrew bible, commonly called by Christians the Old Testament, in the context of the ancient near eastern world. The course asks students to reflect on the impact of the Hebrew bible on Western civilization and its implications for the contemporary world.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

RLGN 1103 - New Testament Writings in Context

A study of the New Testament writings in the context of Greco-Roman civilization. The course asks students to reflect on the impact of Christian scriptures on Western civilization and consider their implications for the contemporary world.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

RLGN 1104 - Dialogue with World Faith Traditions

The course places the insights of the Christian faith in dialogue with those of major living world religions, such as Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Confucianism, and Daoism.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

RLGN 1105 - Christian Ethics and Contemporary Social Issues

A study of contemporary ethical issues in the light of the moral traditions central to the Christian faith. The course examines such issues as marriage and family, war and peace, racism, abortion, and the environment. Servant leadership component.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0
Lecture hours: 3.0

RLGN 1106 - American Christianity

This course will be an investigation of the origins of denominationalism in America. The class will read a history of American Christianity, but will look further afield by analyzing some of the particularly American expressions such as Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Christian Science. The course will enable students to answer questions about their own denominations and the now global framework of movements such as Pentecostalism and Evangelicalism.

Grade Basis: AL
Credit hours: 3.0
Lecture hours: 3.0

RLGN 1108 - Earth Theology

This course explores the inherent value of the Earth, examines the human impact on the environment, and explores ways to address the present global environmental crisis with Biblical and theological resources. Students will become acquainted with some prominent thinkers and theologians who are taking action regarding environmental concerns while discovering sustainable connections between theological reflection and ethical living.

Grade Basis: AL
Credit hours: 3.0
Lecture hours: 3.0

RLGN 2107 - Religious Faith in a Scientific Age

Contemporary debates over intelligent design, climate change, evolution, and stem cell research demonstrate the lively and sometimes contentious interactions between science and religious faith. Students will develop personal positions about the relationship of science and religion and develop ethical perspectives on such controversial biomedical practices as human reproduction, genetic engineering, and end-of-life care. Note: The lab science sequence is not a prerequisite, but is recommended.

Grade Basis: AL
Credit hours: 3.0
Lecture hours: 3.0

RLGN 2120 - Introduction to Hellenistic Greek I

A beginning course designed to teach the fundamentals of Hellenistic or Koine Greek, which includes the language of the New Testament. Completion of the two course sequence in Greek will fulfill the college's foreign language requirement.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

RLGN 2121 - Introduction to Hellenistic Greek II

A continuation of RLGN 2120.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

Prerequisites:

- [RLGN 2120](#) - Introduction to Hellenistic Greek I
-

RLGN 2215 - Global Christianity

A study of the growth of Christianity into a world-wide religion, highlighting Christianity in Asia, Latin America, and Africa.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

RLGN 2220 - Modern Church History

A history of the Christian Church from the reformation era to the modern period.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

RLGN 2230 - Ethnicity and Religion in America

This course examines the role that religion played and continues to play in American race relations and racial identities. The course will study the history and the theorists of the civil rights movement, but also dynamics of race and religion in America's newer immigrant communities.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

Prerequisites:

- [ENGL 1102](#) - Rhetoric and Composition II
-

RLGN 2320 - Conflict and Peace-making

An examination of models of non-violent social change that are grounded in religious faith commitments. The course focuses on the Christian faith tradition but works comparatively with figures and movements from Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, and Islam. The course includes practice in the skills of peace-building that are guided by the principles of restorative justice.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

Prerequisites:

- [ENGL 1102](#) - Rhetoric and Composition II
-

RLGN 3120 - The Prophets

A study of the prophets and prophetic movements in ancient Israel, as well as modern day prophets who continue this tradition in the contemporary context.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

Prerequisites:

- [RLGN 1103](#) - New Testament Writings in Context

Restrictions:

- Permission of course can be granted from instructor.
-

RLGN 3150 - The Apostolic Age

An examination of the origin and expansion of the early Christian Church, with studies in the Epistles and the Acts of the Apostles.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

Prerequisites:

- [RLGN 1103](#) - New Testament Writings in Context

Restrictions:

- Permission of course can be granted from instructor.
-

RLGN 3160 - The Gospels

An examination of one of the four canonical gospels with emphasis on the historical context, history of interpretation, and modern appropriations of the text.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

Prerequisites:

- [RLGN 1103](#) - New Testament Writings in Context

Restrictions:

- Permission of course can be granted from instructor.
-

RLGN 3200 - Early Church History

A survey of the history of the Christian Church from the close of the Apostolic age to the end of the Middle Ages.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

RLGN 3210 - United Methodist Studies

A survey of the history, theology, and polity of the United Methodist Church. A prerequisite for this course requires any one religion core course.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

RLGN 3310 - Contemporary Christian Thought

A survey of the development of Christian thought, with particular attention to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. A prerequisite for this course is any one religion core course.

Grade Basis: AL
Credit hours: 3.0
Lecture hours: 3.0

RLGN 3320 - The Ethics of Sexuality, Marriage, and Gender

A study of the moral issues related to sexuality, gender roles, and family life. Topics vary per offering, but may include ethical reflection on such topics as the meaning and purpose of sexuality, gender roles, pre-marital and extra-marital sexuality, homosexuality, and family structure. We will compare the range of positions on these issues within Christianity, and also compare them with positions in other world faiths. A prerequisite for this course is any one religion core course. This course is also cross-listed as GNDR3320.

Grade Basis: AL
Credit hours: 3.0
Lecture hours: 3.0

RLGN 3340 - Sociology of Religion

A sociological analysis of the interplay between religion and culture. A prerequisite for this course is any one religion core course.

Grade Basis: AL
Credit hours: 3.0
Lecture hours: 3.0

RLGN 3360 - Missions: Theology and Practice

A study of the nature of missions and missional work through modern and historical texts, theory and theology, and practical, hands-on engagement. Students will explore the field of missions as both calling and career, as they embrace a servant leadership focus and sustainable practices.

Grade Basis: AL
Credit hours: 3.0
Lecture hours: 3.0

Prerequisites:

- [RLGN 2215](#) - Global Christianity
-

RLGN 3510 - Christian Education in the Local Church

A study of issues confronting those participating in a local church setting. Required of all students in the Internship. A prerequisite for this course is any one religion core course.

Grade Basis: AL
Credit hours: 3.0
Lecture hours: 3.0

RLGN 3520 - Christian Worship

The study and practice of Christian worship in its historical and contemporary contexts. Topics include the theology of worship, sacraments, liturgy, and the place of music in worship. A prerequisite for this course is any one religion core course.

Grade Basis: AL
Credit hours: 3.0
Lecture hours: 3.0

RLGN 3540 - Youth Ministry

The study and practice of ministry to persons from adolescence through young adulthood. A prerequisite for this course is any one religion core course.

Grade Basis: AL
Credit hours: 3.0
Lecture hours: 3.0

RLGN 3550 - Internship

Supervised participation in the local church setting. May be repeated for credit up to 6 hours. See Program Chair for permission to enroll.

Grade Basis: AL
Credit hours: 1.0
Lecture hours: 1.0

RLGN 3560 - Transformational Leadership

The study of the leadership styles and skills necessary for leadership of an institution. Topics may include institutional dynamics, leading institutional change, working with volunteers, avoiding burnout, and racial and gender issues in leadership. A prerequisite for this course is any one religion core course.

Grade Basis: AL
Credit hours: 3.0
Lecture hours: 3.0

RLGN 4610 - Selected Topics in Religion

A seminar course on a major subject of concern based on individual research and assigned readings.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

Restrictions:

- Permission of course can be granted from instructor.

RLGN 4620 - Senior Thesis or Project

A directed study normally taken in the fall of the senior year. The student should choose a project director from within the Religion & Philosophy faculty and work with this director to refine a topic in the semester prior to which the student enrolls for the course. Thus, most students should select a director and topic by the end of the spring semester of the junior year.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

Restrictions:

- Application to Religion and Philosophy Program Coordinator

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